REMARKS IN REPLY TO THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Since the present amendment is being filed prior to a first Official Action on the merits, it is respectfully requested that it be treated as a Preliminary Amendment. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that it be formally entered prior to the Examiner taking up the above-identified application for a formal review.

Turning to the outstanding Restriction Requirement, applicants hereby elect Group I, including currently amended claim 1 as well as newly presented claims 22-28, for purposes of examination, *without traverse.* Newly presented claims 22-28 are likewise directed to a semiconductor device similarly as that of original claim 1. The current amendments made to claim 1 are of a formal/clarifying nature to remove any noted informalities therein as well as to place the claim in an improved form for examination.
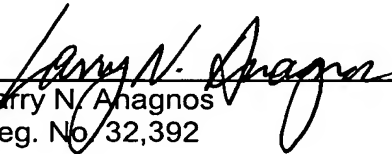
The Group II claims, including claims 2-21, were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. The canceling of claims 2-21 was made strictly to avoid an added claim fee with regard to the newly added claims. Applicants reserve the right, therefore, to re-submit the canceled claims either subsequently in the present application or with regard to a further, continuing (e.g., divisional) application.

Examination as well as favorable action therefor of claims 1 and 22-28 and a formal official notification of allowability of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to the Deposit Account of

Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Dep. Acct. No. 01-2135 (501.40803VX1), and

please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

Larry N. Anagnos
Reg. No. 32,392

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